



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment and Training Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Weekly Claims and Extended Benefits Data and Weekly Initial and Continued Weeks Claimed.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor’s (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) is soliciting comments concerning a proposed extension for the authority to conduct the information collection request (ICR) titled, “Weekly Claims and Extended Benefits Data and Weekly Initial and Continued Weeks Claimed.” This comment request is part of continuing Departmental efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA).

DATES: Consideration will be given to all written comments received by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

ADDRESSES: A copy of this ICR with applicable supporting documentation, including a description of the likely respondents, proposed frequency of response, and estimated total burden, may be obtained free by contacting Anatoli Sznoluch by telephone at (202) 893-3176 (this is not a toll-free number), TTY 1-877-889-5627 (this is not a toll-free number), or by email at Sznoluch.Anatoli@dol.gov.

Submit written comments about, or requests for a copy of, this ICR by mail or courier to the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Unemployment Insurance, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room S-4524, Washington, DC 20210; by email: Sznoluch.Anatoli@dol.gov; or by fax (202) 693-3975.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Stapleton by telephone at (202) 693-3009 (this is not a toll-free number) or by email at Stapleton.Kevin@dol.gov.

AUTHORITY: 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOL, as part of continuing efforts to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information before submitting them to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for final approval. This program helps to ensure requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements can be properly assessed.

The ETA 538 and ETA 539 reports are submitted weekly and contain information on initial claims and continued weeks claimed for the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. These figures are important economic indicators. The ETA 538 report provides information that allows UI claims data to be released to the public five days after the close of the reference period. The ETA 539 report contains more detailed weekly claims information including the state's 13-week insured unemployment rate, which determines eligibility for the Extended Benefits program. Section 303(a)(6) of the Social Security Act and 20 CFR 615.15 authorize this information collection.

This information collection is subject to the PRA. A Federal agency generally cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information, and the public is generally not required to respond to an information collection, unless it is approved by OMB under the PRA and displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. In addition, notwithstanding any other provisions of law, no person shall generally be subject to penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information that does not display a valid Control Number. See 5 CFR 1320.5(a) and 1320.6.

Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments to the contact shown in the ADDRESSES section. Comments must be written to receive consideration, and they will

be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval of the final ICR. In order to help ensure appropriate consideration, comments should mention OMB control number 1205-0028.

Submitted comments will also be a matter of public record for this ICR and posted on the Internet, without redaction. DOL encourages commenters not to include personally identifiable information, confidential business data, or other sensitive statements/information in any comments.

DOL is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, (e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses).

Agency: DOL- DOL-ETA.

Type of Review: Extension without changes.

Title of Collection: Weekly Claims and Extended Benefits Data and Weekly Initial and Continued Weeks Claimed.

Form: ETA 538 and ETA 539.

OMB Control Number: 1205-0028.

Affected Public: State Workforce Agencies.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 53.

Frequency: 104.

Total Estimated Annual Responses: 5,512.

Estimated Average Time per Response: 0.665 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,665 hours.

Total Estimated Annual Other Cost Burden: \$0.

Angela Hanks,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training, Labor.

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